

# **SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

## **Course Syllabus for MUSI 1304 – Spring 2018**

**COURSE TITLE:** Fundamentals of Singing

**PROFESSOR:** EVANGELINA COLÓN

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**OFFICE:** MB #39

**CLASS TIME:**

**LOCATION OF CLASS:** MB 217

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment. Please email for appointments.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course is designed for non-voice major students whose applied areas are mostly instrumental. It is also open for non music students who want to have the musical experience through vocal music. The majority of the students come from the Music Therapy area. It combines elements of class voice, vocal pedagogy and healthy singing, both choral and solo. Class participation is extremely important.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The student will learn the different parts of the vocal instrument and will learn fundamental principles of singing and the concept of the uniformity of vocal sonorities applicable to solo and choral singing.

### **REFERENCE TEXTBOOKS:**

Richard Miller. *The Structure of Singing – System and Art in Vocal Technique*. Schirmer Books, 1996.

James C. McKinney. *The Diagnosis & Correction of Vocal Faults*. Waveland Press, 2005. Other readings as assigned.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Since a great deal of class will be spent in applied, experiential learning, class attendance is extremely important. A student may miss 2 classes with no effect on the grade, although I do not recommend it. Each additional absence will result in 3 points taken from final average.

**OTHER NECESSARY INFORMATION:**

\*\*\*Official University Attendance Policy, taken from the University Handbook, can be accessed through [http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf\\_www/aps/documents/800401\\_001.pdf](http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/800401_001.pdf): Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. It is expected that each faculty member will keep a record of student attendance. Each faculty member will announce to his/her classes the policies for accepting late work or providing make-up examinations. Students are expected to show appropriate cause for missing or delaying major assignments or examinations. A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work have not been missed; however, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences at the discretion of the instructor. Each instructor is obligated to clarify his/her classroom policy regarding absences in writing to each student enrolled in class at the beginning of the semester or summer session.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** According to University the student must initiate policy requests for accommodations. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center.

**STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:** Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of religious holyday, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

**UNIVERSITY POLICY 861001:** Provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor for religious holidays. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day (s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day (s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absences (s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examination are to be completed.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Your policy must, at minimum, be compatible with stated university policy set forth in (§§5.3-5.32) of the Faculty Handbook (see italicized section below). The Faculty handbook sets forth in great detail examples and definitions of dishonest behavior; the faculty members' discretion in determining when dishonesty occurs and rendering penalties; procedures for discipline; and suggested wording for the individual professor's policy.

**PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR/RULES**

**OF CONDUCT:** According to university policy and §5 of the Student Handbook, students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that that is conducive to learning.

"Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

January 19 – January 30: Individual vocalizing to start the analysis of the different types of voices and to establish the comfort zone of each singer..

February 1 – March 6: The vocal instrument and the general physiology of its component parts.

March 8: Exam

March 9-March 18: Spring break.

March 20 – March 29: Vocal registers and its realistic utilization – original exercises.  
– Listen to solo singers to be able to identify the different voice classification: soprano, mezzo soprano, tenor, baritone, bass.

April 3 – April 26: Itemizing the areas to be trained for a vocal performance:

Diction

Intonation

Rhythm

Vocal sonorities

Date TBA

Final exam